

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.-12. (canceled).

13. (currently amended) An isolated or purified antibody that specifically binds an amino acid sequence epitope consisting of residues 1-12 of SEQ ID NO:18.

14. (previously presented) The antibody according to claim 13, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

15. (previously presented) The antibody according to claim 14, wherein said antibody is a purified IgG fraction.

16. (previously presented) The antibody according to claim 13, wherein said antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

17. (currently amended) The antibody according to claim 13, wherein said antibody specifically binds to a polypeptide comprising said amino acid sequence epitope.

18. (previously presented) The antibody according to claim 17, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

19. (previously presented) The antibody according to claim 18, wherein said antibody is a purified IgG fraction.

20. (previously presented) The antibody according to claim 17, wherein said antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

21. (previously presented) The antibody according to claim 13, wherein said antibody binds to human prostacyclin synthase and does not bind to bovine prostacyclin synthase.

22. (currently amended) An isolated or purified antibody that specifically binds an amino acid sequence ~~epitope~~ consisting of residues 1-12 of SEQ ID NO:18, said antibody produced using an immunogen comprising a polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide comprises residues 1-12 of SEQ ID NO:18.

23. (previously presented) The antibody of claim 22, wherein said polypeptide consists of residues 1-12 of SEQ ID NO:18.

24. (previously presented) The antibody of claim 22, wherein said immunogen further comprises complete Freund's adjuvant or keyhole limpet hemocyanin.

25. (currently amended) A method for producing an antibody that specifically binds an amino acid sequence ~~epitope~~ consisting of residues 1-12 of SEQ ID NO:18, comprising;

(a) administering an immunogen comprising a polypeptide to an animal, wherein said polypeptide comprises residues 1-12 of SEQ ID NO:18, and

(b) isolating an antibody from said animal of (a) that specifically binds an amino acid sequence ~~epitope~~ consisting of residues 1-12 of SEQ ID NO:18.

26. (previously presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein said polypeptide consists of residues 1-12 of SEQ ID NO:18.

27. (previously presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein said immunogen further comprises complete Freund's adjuvant or keyhole limpet hemocyanin.

28. (previously presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein said antibody has the following properties (A) and (B):

- (A) specifically binds human prostacyclin synthase, and
- (B) does not bind bovine prostacyclin synthase.

29. (previously presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein said antibody specifically binds human prostacyclin synthase alone.